

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Preventing

environmental

damage from

hazardous waste,

and restoring

contaminated

sites for all

Californians.





Fact Sheet, April 2006

BECKMAN COULTER SEEKS RENEWAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT AND PARTIAL CLOSURE

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to comment on a proposed Hazardous Waste Permit renewal for the hazardous waste facilities and a proposed partial closure of two inactive hazardous waste management units at Beckman Coulter, Incorporated (Beckman) located at 4300 Harbor Blvd. in Fullerton.

The proposed Draft Permit renewal would allow the facility to continue to operate the existing hazardous waste drum and tank storage and plating waste treatment activities located on the property. The Draft Permit and supporting documents define the permitted activities at the Beckman facility. The facility is also proposing that the inactive Drum Storage Area 8 and inactive waste trichloroethane tank be closed.

Our department regulates the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste in California. This fact sheet contains information on:

- Facility description
- ♦ Permit features and safety measures ◆
- ♦ Corrective action
- **♦** Closure

- ♦ Permit renewal process
- ♦ Opportunities for public comment
- Where to view the draft documents
- ♦ Department contacts

Public Comment Period April 21, 2006 to June 6, 2006

DTSC is announcing a 45-day public review and comment period on the Draft Hazardous Waste Permit renewal and associated proposed Negative Declaration for the Beckman Coulter facility at 4300 Harbor Blvd. in Fullerton. We will consider and respond to all public comments before making a final decision on this site. You are invited to review and comment on this document at the local information repositories listed on this fact sheet. Please mail or email comments no later than June 6, 2006 to William Jeffers, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201; or Email to wjeffers@dtsc.ca.gov.

Public Hearing

DTSC will hold a public hearing to explain the Draft Permit, Partial Closure Plan, and receive public comments.

Date: May 23, 2006 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Sonora High School Little Theater

401 S. Palm Street La Habra, CA 90631

For information on accessibility (wheelchair ramps, etc.) or to request a reasonable accommodation (such as translators or sign language interpretation) please call Derrick Alatorre at 714-484-5474 at least one week prior to the meeting.



Facility description

Beckman is a major international manufacturer of medical and scientific test instrumentation and related laboratory chemicals since 1934. The facility, located at 4300 Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, California, at the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Lambert Road. Beckman has been in operation at this location since 1958. In 1982, Beckman was granted a temporary permit by the Department of Health Services, the predecessor to DTSC, authorizing on-site storage of hazardous waste and neutralized waste water. In 1994, DTSC issued a Permit to the facility.

Permit features and safety measures

The Draft Permit allows for the continued generation and treatment of hazardous waste and ongoing monitoring of water wells in accordance with state regulations. The Draft permit is very strict in the amount of hazardous waste which may be generated and the areas where the waste can be stored.

The following is a brief description of the areas covered under this permit:

The Container Storage Area of Building 10 - may store hazardous waste liquid in 55 - gallon drums. The maximum amount of waste the Facility is allowed to store in this area is 8,580 gallons or 156 drums.

The Mixed Waste Storage Area - located in the south east corner of Building 6, may store liquid scintillation cocktail (LSC) (see glossary) waste in bulk and in vials. The waste is contained in 20 - gallon drums that are inside of 55 -gallon drums. The overall room size is 19 foot-8 inches by 10 foot-7 inches. The larger room provides secondary containment and is surrounded by a 1 ½ inch tall berm. The overall room is equipped with a sprinkler system.

The Waste Machining Coolant Storage Tanks - located east of Building 6, stores waste machining coolant. The waste machining coolant is contained in two 550 - gallon cross linked high density polyethylene (see glossary) tanks that are double walled. The tanks are set on a 6 foot by 19.5 foot poured concrete containment pad

which is surrounded by a 16.5 inch tall poured concrete wall.

The Waste Trimethylbenzene Storage Tank - located in between Building 11 and Building 10, contains trimethylbenzene (see glossary) wastewater, which consists of wash water from the mix tanks used to formulate LSC. The wastewater is greater than 90% water with the balance of the wastewater being the organic chemicals that are used to manufacture the LSC. The waste trimethybenzene solution is contained in a 2000-gallon tank. The Waste Trimethylbenzene Storage Tank is a double-walled tank.

The Plating Shop Neutralization System - located just east of the northeast corner of Building 6, treats rinse waters from the rinse tanks of various plating operations. The system consists of three separate chambers. Treatment is accomplished by the addition of sodium hydroxide (see glossary) solution in order to accelerate the various hazardous metal ions contained in the rinse water. The Plating Shop Neutralization System is a double-walled tank. The outer tank surrounds the inner tank and is 145 ½ inches long by 96 ¾ inches deep by 43 ¾ inches wide. The inner tank is 139 1/4 inches long by 95 3/4 inches deep by 37 3/4 inches wide and is divided into three chambers. The Plating Shop Neutralization System is contained in a pit that has 4 inch thick concrete sides

Corrective action

As a result of finding a volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the soil adjacent to Bldg. 10 in August of 1994, Beckman began a Resource Conversation Recovery Act (RCRA) (see glossary) Facility Investigation (RFI). Beckman has performed an environmental investigation with DTSC oversight since the beginning of the RFI. Numerous soil samples and soil gas analyses were made and the VOC was characterized as being confined by a five foot thick clay layer starting at approximately 22 feet below ground surface. To be totally protective of ground water, a monitoring well was drilled. After development of the monitoring well, three separate groundwater samples were taken, approximately

one month apart, and laboratory analysis resulted in non-detection of groundwater contamination.

Closure

Beckman is proposing to complete partial closure of the two inactive HWMUs would allow Beckman to close these units and begin investigation of the areas for contamination.

Permit renewal process

DTSC examines a permit renewal application through four main steps:

- 1) DTSC reviews the permit renewal application for completeness. If necessary, DTSC issues a Notice of Deficiency requiring additional information or changes to the existing information in the application. For Beckman, DTSC has not issued any notices of deficiency.
- 2) DTSC prepares a Draft permit renewal or permit denial based on whether the facility's application meets the regulatory standards.
- 3) DTSC solicits and receives comments from the public during a formal public comment period of at least 45 days. DTSC holds a public meeting and a public hearing, if requested, or if DTSC thinks there is significant public interest. Beckman's Permit renewal application and has prepared a Draft Permit which details the regulations and conditions which the facility must comply with in order to operate.

The Beckman Draft Permit will have a duration of ten years. Title 22, Section 66271.7 of the California Code of Regulations requires the facility to obtain a renewal of their permit to continue operations. This permit will allow:

- a) Continued hazardous waste drum and tank storage;
- b) On-site treatment of plating waste;
- c) Continued monitoring of groundwater around building 10.

DTSC will consider all written comments received during the public comment period, as well as all input provided during the public hearing before making a final permit renewal determina-

tion. Once a decision has been made to issue, deny or modify the Draft permit, notice will be given to the applicant as well as to anyone who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final decision. The Draft permit contains specific conditions that Beckman will follow if the final permit is issued.

The final permit decision will become effective 45 days after the decision has been announced, unless a later date is specified or a review is requested.

Ensuring public health & environment is protected

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC is responsible for reviewing the potential health and environmental risks from the proposed permit renewal. DTSC has prepared an Initial Study under the authority of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 21064. The Initial Study normally identifies potentially significant effects on the environment and their impact on it. The information gathered for the Initial Study has indicated the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. As a result of this determination, DTSC has prepared a Draft Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA.

Opportunities for public comment

We encourage you to submit comments on the Draft permit and proposed Negative Declaration to the project manager post marked or emailed no later than June 6, 2006 to Mr. William Jeffers. The DTSC mailing address and information repository are listed on page 4 of this fact sheet. You may also attend the scheduled Public Hearing (see box on page 1) to give your comments directly to DTSC staff.

Information repositories

Copies of the DTSC Draft permit, facility application, proposed Negative Declaration and other background information can be reviewed at the following locations (see page 4):

La Habra Library

221 East La Habra Blvd. La Habra, CA. 90631 562-694-0078 Mon-Thur 10:00am-8:00pm Fri Closed Sat 10:00am-5:00pm Sun 12:00pm-5:00pm

Department of Toxic Substances Control

1011 North Grandview Ave. Glendale, CA 91201 818-551-2800 Ms. Jone Barrio Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm

Glossary

CEQA – a requirement that state and local agencies to disclose and consider the environmental implications of their decisions, and to avoid or reduce the significant impacts of their decisions whenever it is feasible.

Liquid Scintillation Cocktail – mixed waste which contains radioactive material.

Polyethylene - a conventional (not biodegradable) plastic.

Resource Conservation Recovery Act - a 1976 amendment to the first federal solid waste legislation, the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965. In RCRA, Congress established initial directives and guidelines for U.S. EPA to regulate and manage solid waste, including hazardous waste. RCRA established a regulatory system to track hazardous substances from the time of generation to final disposal. The law requires safe and secure procedures to be used in treating, transporting, storing and disposing of hazardous wastes. RCRA was designed to prevent new, uncontrolled hazardous wastes sites.

Sodium Hydroxide - a strongly alkaline caustic used in manufacturing soap and paper and aluminum and various sodium compounds.

Trichloroethane - is used as a cleaning agent for metals and plastics. It is toxic.

Trimethylbenzene - commonly used as a solvent in research and industry.

DTSC points of contact

Mr. William Jeffers DTSC Project Manager 1011 North Grandview Avenue Glendale, CA 91201 818-551-2185 wjeffers@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Derrick Alatorre
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5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
714-484-5474
866-495-5651 (toll free)
dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov

For Media inquiries

Ms. Sandra Friedman DTSC Public Information Officer 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, CA 90630 714-484-5383 sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov

Information for the hearing impaired

TDD users can obtain information about this site by using the California State Relay Service at 888-877-5378. Please ask to speak with Mr. Derrick Alatorre at 714-484-5474.

Comment Form and Mailing Coupon

Beckman Coulter, Inc Fullerton, CA

You may use this sheet to

- send us your comments be added to or taken off the mailing list

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. Please send this form to Mr. William Jeffers, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Avenue Glendale, CA 91201. All written public comments on the draft Hazardous Waste Permit, proposed Negative Declaration and draft Partial Closure Plan must be postmarked or e-mailed by June 6, 2006. You may also e-mail this information to wjeffers@dtsc.ca.gov

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